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of the federation of the leading nations at the Hague Conference in October next." Will not his best friends advise him to do that? It will be the greatest political boon ever conferred on the human race and will bring infinite relief and blessing to all.

### The British Peace Society.

*Abstract of the Annual Report of 1905-6.*

The Ninetieth Annual Report of the Peace Society, 47 New Broad Street, London, E. C., congratulates the members on the continuing and increasing favor shown to its principles, with special reference to the action of Parliament, the influence of the King and Queen, and the general popular support of Peace. The Scandinavian Secession, the end of the war in the Far East, and the change of national policy are referred to with gratification, the forthcoming Peace Conference at The Hague with hopeful anticipation, the South African and other troubles with regret, and the propaganda of Lord Roberts with repudiation. Detailed mention is made of twenty-five cases of pacific settlement, either completed or in progress, and to twenty-one new treaties of permanent arbitration.

The Society has carried on a very extensive and varied work during the year. Its lecturers and agents have given 725 addresses. In connection with the general election a general work of questioning candidates was incited by the Society, and 50,000 pamphlets and papers were distributed. The observance of Peace Sunday was as general as in previous years: 7,211 sermons and addresses had been reported, and 328,412 copies of literature distributed, or 90,000 more than last year. Peace Sunday was also observed in France, and has spread to Australia, Denmark, and The Netherlands. A branch of the Society has been formed in Melbourne, Australia, and a branch of the Juvenile Society — the Band of Peace — at Dundee. Included in the usual large amount of literature issued (285,000 copies) was an edition of 10,000 copies of Andrew Carnegie's Rectorial Address to the St. Andrews University, for gratuitous distribution. Various provincial meetings and visits of the secretary had been very encouraging. He had also attended the second National Peace Congress in Bristol in June, the Conference of the International Law Association in Christiania in September, and, later, the Universal Peace Congress in Lucerne.

The Report speaks of the courteous assistance of the Press, of the continued usefulness and increasing circulation of the Society's Organs, the *Herald of Peace* and the *Olive Leaf*, and of the revision, increase, and large demand for the Lantern Lectures. It refers to the large deficit in the financial report caused by the increased demand for the Society's efforts, and concludes with a reference to the Christian basis of the Society and its works, which urges that the need for a Christian peace propaganda is growing more imperative and will be still more clamant in the future.

### Limiting the Size of Battleships.

Admiral Mahan, who cannot be accused of being a "demagogue of peace," believes that the only remedy for the insensate rivalry of the maritime nations in

building big and bigger battleships, is an international agreement limiting the size of these floating batteries. One of the lessons which this high authority draws from a study of the naval battles in the Japanese-Russian war, is that it is futile to increase the size of battleships with the hope that any nation can get and maintain the biggest. There is, he contends, no natural limit beyond which increase in size can be said to be impossible; and hence if one nation should construct a battleship with a displacement of 30,000 tons, there is nothing to prevent a rival from constructing one of 40,000. By the time one new monster, designed to overmatch the English "Dreadnought," shall be completed, Great Britain or some other nation, starting later, will "go us one better."

Admiral Mahan argues that as the expense of a battleship increases at a ratio in excess of the ratio of increase of tonnage, the nations are embarked in a rivalry that is simply suicidal, when each tries to overmatch the other. He therefore suggests an international agreement limiting the size of battleships.

But if this be practicable as to the size of individual ships, why is it not equally so as to the number of fighting ships — the size of the navy itself? A resolution looking in this direction has recently passed the British House of Commons, with the approval of the government. The need of some such agreement, so far as this country is concerned, was plainly brought out in the recent debate in the House over the naval appropriation bill providing for the expenditure of \$100,000,000. Representative Tawney, chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, told the House and the country that "we are spending 63½ per cent. of all our revenues, exclusive of the postal service, for war or in preparation for war." We have under construction to-day, he said, thirty vessels of all classes, with a displacement of 384,730 tons, or more than 50 per cent. of the displacement of our present navy, and that construction will not be completed until 1910 or 1912. The total amount appropriated for the navy by the Fifty-seventh and Fifty-eighth Congresses, according to Mr. Tawney, was \$338,108,715. What the great marine powers have built or are building, of efficient fighting ships only, these figures, prepared at the office of naval intelligence, show:

GREAT BRITAIN.	
Tons.	Tons.
Built ..... 1,673,338	Building ..... 234,660
FRANCE.	
Built..... 619,675	Building..... 181,283
GERMANY.	
Built..... 466,084	Building ..... 121,978
UNITED STATES.	
Built..... 388,519	Building ..... 313,278
JAPAN.	
Built..... 321,131	Building..... 106,740

This peaceful republic, committed for a hundred years to the principle and practice of arbitration, with no foe even suspected, is thus building fighting ships faster even than Great Britain, and will soon occupy third place among the naval powers. We ought at least to be ready to second England's motion for a "limit."—*From the Boston Herald.*